



# City Connection

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[www.huntsvilletx.gov](http://www.huntsvilletx.gov)

## Historic Meeting Between City and County on TIRZ

In a meeting coined 'historic' by Mayor J. Turner, the City of Huntsville City Council met in a joint work session with Walker County Commissioners Court Tuesday, January



**Dr. Wayne Barrett**  
TIRZ Board Chairman  
Council member Ward 4

20, 2009 to discuss Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone No. One. Mayor J. Turner and Councilmembers Wayne Barrett, Tom Cole, Charles Forbus, Melissa Mahaffey, Lanny Ray and Dalene Zender were present, as were County Judge Robert "Danny" Pierce, Commissioner B.J. Gaines, Commissioner Robert Earl Autery, Commissioner Bobby

Warren, and Commissioner Tim Paulsel. In addition to the city and county officials who serve on the TIRZ Zone No. One Board, members David Moorman and Dr. Richard Montgomery were also present.

Mayor J. Turner stated, "This is a significant, historical event for our community. It is a rare occasion indeed that both local government political subdivisions such as the City and County have the opportunity to come together, sit around the same table, and discuss what is important for our citizens, for our community. My hope is that this is not the last time we have such a get-together."

Lasting nearly two and a half hours, the Council and Commissioners discussed the ups and downs of the TIRZ Zone No. One as well as tax increment reinvestment zones in general. "The main thrust of



**J. Turner**  
Mayor

this gathering was to share our thoughts, and to get the County's input on the current TIRZ and for future tax incentive programs they

may be asked to participate in. At some point all programs need evaluation, and with the current development and

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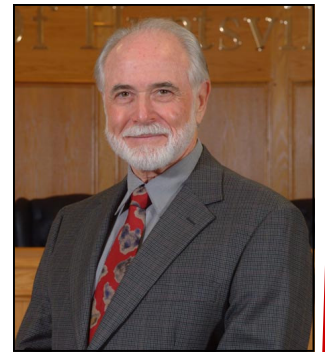
review of this TIRZ. It is important for our taxpayers to know we are being good stewards with their tax dollars," said Turner.



**Lanny D. Ray**  
Council member Position 4  
At Large

At the beginning of the meeting, Councilmember Charles Forbus opened with remarks calling out the local newspaper, the

*Huntsville Item*, for their lack of coverage on the real issues regarding the Ravenwood Project. "For example, the *Item* has not reported any of the reasons the Council has discussed in deliberations regarding repealing the TIRZ. They are a source of information for our local citizens, and it is a travesty of justice that the facts are not being reported," said Forbus. Even so, following the work ses-



**Charles Forbus**  
Council member Position 3  
At Large

sion, at which Walker County Judge Danny Pierce stated that the Commissioners never discussed suing the City and would not consider it, the *Item* did not include that in their coverage, and still refused to print the facts surrounding the Ravenwood Project and the Council's reasons for taking action to repeal the TIRZ exclusive of the Ravenwood retail development.

See **TIRZ**, Page 4

### Citizens of Huntsville

*Be a part of Democracy in Action! Your input is Requested and Respected!  
We invite you to visit our City facilities, attend Council meetings and take part  
in your community!*

## UPDATE Spring Lake Water Plant Filter Project

As a part of the continuing effort to reduce brown water problems, the City is constructing a water filtration system at the Spring Lake Water Plant. This water filtration unit is designed to remove iron and manganese from the well water that is pumped from underground aquifers to the treatment plant. The iron and manganese that naturally occurs in the well water is what causes the water to be reddish-brown in color.

The filtration system should be completed in early March. Once the filters are in full operation, iron and manganese will be removed at the source. In conjunction with the filters being placed online, City staff

will initiate an aggressive waterline cleaning program of the distribution system that is under the influence of the Spring Lake Water Plant. This will affect customers residing west of IH 45. The waterline cleaning process will be conducted in stages over several months and will require special planning and cooperation with all the citizens involved. There will be scheduled outages that will require the water to be turned off at each residence for a short time while the lines are being cleaned and flushed.

City staff is pleased to incorporate this upgrade in water treatment technology and anticipates significant improvement in water quality. Future City Connection articles will provide progress on this project to keep citizens informed and to minimize inconvenience due to service interruptions. Citizens with questions about this project may contact Jason Pierce, Water Services Superintendent, at 936-294-5762.

## Severe Weather Awareness Week February 22 - 28, 2009

Straight line wind storms, downburst rains and tornadoes can occur at any time of year in Texas. So it pays for individuals and families to plan what to do well in advance. Severe Weather Awareness Week is February 22-28, 2009. Basic preparedness plans should be in place at home, at work and at school and each family member or employee should understand the plans. When a severe storm or tornado strikes, there may be only a few seconds to react and find shelter. For home, work or school, shelter areas should be designated, whether they are in basements below ground level, ground level windowless rooms, or interior hallways on the lowest floor. Protect yourself from flying debris with thick blankets, sleeping bags or mattresses. Choose a person to telephone outside your city to let others know you are safe and choose a place for family members to meet if your neighborhood and home are damaged or destroyed. For more information, you can contact the National Weather Service at [www.srh.noaa.gov/hgx](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/hgx).



## Streetlight Outages

### Who should you call?

Lighting the way for drivers and pedestrians, streetlights are vital to our everyday lives. To assist citizens in crime prevention and safety in their neighborhoods, the City of Huntsville has established a special line for residents to call and report street light outages.

If you are aware of street lights that are not working, burning during the daytime, or appear to be damaged in any way, please contact the City of Huntsville Public Works Department at **936-294-5700**. You may also report the outage by contacting Entergy Texas at **1-800-OUTAGE (1-800-968-8243)**.

With approximately 1300 streetlights in the city limits of Huntsville, we appreciate your help in identifying lights that are malfunctioning or in need of repair.



## Request to Customers Automated Residential Collection

The Solid Waste Services staff kindly request for customers who set out their automated cart only once a week, to please do so on the second collection day. This would be either a Thursday or Friday. Your effort would more evenly distribute the work hours and tonnage collected by the automated residential drivers on those routes. All garbage must be bagged and the cart handle should face the home.

Your cooperation is appreciated. Please call Esther Herklotz, Solid Waste Superintendent, at 936-294-5724 if you have any questions.

## 2nd Annual E-Waste Recycling Day

### A Success!

The City of Huntsville Solid Waste Services Division, in coordination with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Wynne Computer Recovery Program and the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC), sponsored Huntsville's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual E-Waste Recycling Day on Saturday, January 10, 2009 at the Kate Barr Ross baseball field parking lot. Many volunteers from the Walker County Master Gardeners, TDCJ Wynne Unit, Walker County Jail, Walker County Commissioners, H.I.S.D. students, Texas A&M Corp of Cadets and City of Huntsville employees directed recyclers through the check point and drop-off area where citizens were assisted in unloading their vehicles and trailers. Over 300 recycling and environmental handouts were distributed to citizens as they drove through the first check point.

The intent of the E-Waste Recycling Day was to recycle computers, printers, monitors, mice, keyboards, computer parts, scan-

ners, televisions, cell phones and rechargeable batteries in order to keep them out of our landfills and refurbish any usable equipment for low income school districts in Texas. Two (2) additional recycling vendors, Try 2 Recycle of Huntsville and Greenstar of Houston also provided drop-off points for vehicle batteries and office paper. Fishing reels were one of the most interesting items brought in for recycling.

A total of 392 vehicles went through the recycling lines which included citizens from Huntsville, Walker County and some surrounding counties. A total of 50,158 pounds or 25.079 tons of E-Waste was collected and processed through TDCJ and 40 pounds or .02 tons of cell phones and rechargeable batteries were collected and processed through RBRC. Eighty-four pallets were packed and loaded into seven, 18 -wheelers.

K-SAM Radio provided a Live Remote to promote the event and encourage citizens to recycle.

The City of Huntsville Solid Waste Services Division looks forward to next year's E-Waste Recycling Day.

## Save the Date!

### TREE SALE in conjunction with Walker County Proud Communities

Saturday, February 21, 2009  
8:00 am to 12:00 noon  
Golden Corral Restaurant  
Parking Lot—2050 11<sup>th</sup> St.

### TIRE BLAST

Saturday, March 21, 2009

### AND

Saturday, May 2, 2009  
8:00 am to 12:00 noon  
City of Huntsville Disposal  
and Recycling Facility  
590 I-45 North



## Police/Fire Statistics December 2008

### Police:

♦ Calls for service:	3854
♦ Accidents investigated:	98
♦ Animal Control complaints investigated:	89

### Fire:

♦ Calls for service:	125
♦ Main alarm calls:	27

## 6th Annual Beautification

## Golf Tournament



**February 27, 2009  
at 1:00 pm**

**For more information  
contact Penny Joiner  
at 936-294-5708**



## Kid's Korner

### Chocolate Bars

Find and circle all of the chocolate bars that are hidden in the grid.  
The words may be hidden in any direction.

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X I W T E H T U R Y B A B
S H D A I R Y M I L K U P
A E C H L S Y Y E I O M S
R E G N I F R E T T U B I
O R E A U N A M C Y C C R
M S K R E R O A O R A E C
I H N H A U C J E R B R E
L X H I N B D E A N M O E
K O R D C N S M L R G M F
Y O S O O K I R B T U T F
W Y C M K L E I A K S A O
A N L B K S G R T M C E C
Y A K I T K A T S E F B N
  
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AERO	DAIRY MILK	MR. BIG
ALMOND JOY	EAT-MORE	NESTLE CRUNCH
BABY RUTH	KIT KAT	OH HENRY!
BUTTERFINGER	MARS BAR	SKOR
CARAMILK	MILKY WAY	SNICKERS
COFFEE CRISP	MOUNDS	TWIX

## TIRZ, continued from Page 1

Several Councilmembers discussed at length with agreement and without dispute from other participants the various reasons for repealing the TIRZ, such as:

- TIRZ No. One was placed on marketable land instead of blighted land that would not have developed otherwise, increasing the purchase price of the property although the market price has remained the same.
- Only one development has been started in TIRZ No. One – the Ravenwood Project – which was made financially viable only with the additional incentive of a sales tax rebate from the City along with the TIRZ property tax rebate.

This development has turned out to be a bad deal for the City after the discov-

ery that none of the "selling points" were accurate. Specifically, as reported in the City Connection, the benefits to the City, Walker County and Huntsville Independent School District were grossly over-inflated and the single-family residential housing promised as part of the development's package deal proved untrue.

Councilmember Lanny Ray pointed out on several occasions that the TIRZ has only increased the sales price of the land within it, and so has retarded its development. "Huntsville has enjoyed significant growth everywhere around the Zone, but not in it because developers do not wish to pay above market value for land when they can pay fair market value outside the Zone. With TIRZ No. One dissolved except for the Target retail development portion, the artificial price of

the other land formerly included in the TIRZ will return to market, and the area can now be developed if the landowners desire to sell to developers," said Ray.

Councilmember Wayne Barrett expressed disappointment that persons who publicly strongly advocated for the Ravenwood Development have not been forthcoming in seeking to set the record straight, in light of recent revelations and revised numbers. He also expressed disappointment that there seems to be more concern about protecting the developer than there is about representing the interests of and contractual obligations to the residents of Huntsville.

Following the work session, the City Council convened a special session and took action on an item originally tabled at the November 11,

2008 meeting. The Council repealed Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone Number One, created by Ordinance 2004-16, exclusive of the area designated for the retail portion of the Ravenwood Village Project. Additionally, the Council ratified a prosecutor's contract, approved a contract with a law firm for interim city attorney services, and approved two sets of meeting minutes.

The City Council's next regular session will be held next Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at City Hall. The Council is scheduled to convene a work session in Executive Session at 5:15pm, with the regular business meeting starting at 6:00pm.

For more information, please contact Mayor J. Turner or City Secretary Stephanie Brim at 936.291.5403.

## Calendar

### FEBRUARY

- 3 City Council Meeting—6pm at City Hall
- 17 City Council Meeting—6pm at City Hall

### MARCH

- 3 City Council Meeting—6pm at City Hall
- 17 City Council Meeting—6pm at City Hall

Visit [www.huntsvilletx.gov](http://www.huntsvilletx.gov)  
for a complete calendar of events

The City's General Election of Officers will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2009! The first day for applicants to file for place on ballot is February 7th! Watch for more information in the March issue, on the City's website at [www.huntsvilletx.gov](http://www.huntsvilletx.gov) or you may call the City Secretary's office at 936-291-5403.

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Las elecciones generales de oficiales de la ciudad serán sostenidas el sábado 9 de Mayo del 2009! El primer día para que aplicantes puedan guardar un lugar en el boleto de votación es el 7 de Febrero! Manténgase sintonizado para más información en la cuestión de Marzo en el sitio de web de la ciudad a [www.huntsvilletx.gov](http://www.huntsvilletx.gov) o puede llamar a la oficina de la secretaria de la ciudad a 936-291-5403.